

HOUSE BILL 133

By Bell

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 1,  
Chapter 4 and Title 49, relative to use of American  
Indian symbols, images, and names.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 1, Chapter 4, is amended by adding the  
following as a new section:

§ 1-4-405.

(a) The general assembly recognizes that in recognition and in honor of the  
American Indian heritage and tradition in Tennessee, many Tennessee institutions, both  
public and private, have elected to acknowledge admirable characteristics of American  
Indians and to reflect a positive outlook and recognition upon the contributions and the  
heritage of American Indians in Tennessee by the honor of selecting symbols, mascots,  
and names. Such symbols, mascots, and names are chosen in recognition of the area's  
heritage and to honor and respect the heritage of American Indians and their  
contributions to our citizens and our state.

(b) No state agency has the authority to prohibit or impair in any way the right of  
any public or private institution to continue to honor American Indians and the heritage of  
such institution through the use of American Indian symbols, names, and mascots.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring  
it.